

Franciscan
mission
Associates



Postal Regulatory Commission
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FR. ROBERT, O.F.M.

February 27, 2018

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

Re: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

We join the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and the nonprofit mailing community in urging you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on both the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, we rely on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year, so if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

Our mission is to provide for our elderly and sick Franciscan friars, to support vocations for God's work. The work of the friars in our missions of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador enable them to provide schools and education for the children for their future, homes for the elderly, nutrition and food programs, primary medical care with clinics, soup kitchens, scholarship programs for needy children, eye clinics, vocational training programs and employment programs regardless of their religious affiliation.

Postage increased totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have a severe impact on our mission and the people we serve. Our services to them would need to be severely cut and in some instances eliminated. Some of our work is to enable the young people to care for themselves in the future.

Please do the right thing and reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Madeline Bonnici'.

Madeline Bonnici
Executive Director

www.franciscanmissionassoc.org

Franciscan Friars with Missions in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador